

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing particles for supporting a surfactant, comprising a step of giving a defect to a coating film containing a water-soluble component, wherein the coating film is formed on surfaces of raw material particles comprising at least one of a water-soluble polymer and a water-soluble salt, and the raw material particles are brought in contact with an aqueous medium in the step of giving a defect to the coating film.

2. (Canceled)

B' 3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the raw material particles comprise a water-soluble polymer, a water-soluble salt and a water-insoluble inorganic substance, and substantially contains no surfactant.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the raw material particles comprise dry particles obtained by spray-drying a slurry containing the water-soluble component.

5. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the amount of the aqueous medium to be brought in contact is from 0.1 to 10 parts by weight as water, based on 100 parts by weight of the raw material particles.

B' 6. (Amended) A process for preparing detergent particles comprising a step of mixing a surfactant composition and the particles for supporting a surfactant obtained by the process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, under conditions that the surfactant composition shows a liquid state.

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